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STATINTL

Making A Mountain Out Of A Molehill

To the Editor of The American:

Apparently the ninth circle of Hell, which nearly every American, wherever he may stand on the issue of prayers in public schools, can pinpoint, is Cuba. "We ought to wipe out the lot of them" — as one intelligent friend recently told me — seems to be the general hoot and cry. With such intelligence abroad, I don't dare take a stand on the recent exile raids without having reports from Cuba, to which the United States allows no one (except presumably the C. I. A.) to go to report from. Instead I propose to struggle with some rather brightly glittering Gordian threads in the way that an unfriendly observer might do — a Frenchman or an Englishman, say.

"The raids came from American soil." (So in spiteful, fustian fashion does the unfriendly observer begin.) "Yet the State Department denied any American involvement in them. Let's assume this is possible in the best Caribbean piratical tradition. However, one finds it preposterous to assume that with the C. I. A., the F. B. I., the Florida State Police and local police (so effective in Jacksonville) and news-hungry newsmen all working diligently, the United States government has not been aware of the squeamish business. One finds it equally preposterous to assume that with the Army, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard, the latter of whom because of that devil ninety miles away are heavily concentrated in Florida waters (Look at the way they nabbed those two subversive fishermen a while back!) the United States Government has simply been unable to put a stop to it. One is forced to assume less preposterously that the United States Government has not wanted to put a stop to it and for the sake of a sugar mill and some votes the present Administration has reduced President Kennedy's promise during the Missile Crisis of no future invasions of Cuba to a tactical bluff. Dr. Castro must now again consider Florida offensive enemy soil. It is now understandable for him to be intolerant of U-2 reconnaissance flights over his country by the country which harbors the enemy even if it does not support it or know about its activities or supply it with information about the weather over Cuba, of course."

"The Revolutionary Recovery Movement" listed commandos, frogmen, combat engineers, signal corps, torpedo units, and guerrillas as participating in the raid. Shall we assume that these forces got their equipment, 'the best weapons we can obtain,' from Marshal Castelo Branco in Brazil or Marshal Tito or perhaps from that old warrior Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, explaining why he can't pay his U.N. bill? The communique also stated that the anti-Castro guerrillas in the Sierra Maestra 'replenished their ammunition and food supply.' This nicely coordinated rendezvous makes one wonder whether there might not have been others unless, of course, Castro himself has been supplying the Sierra Maestra rebels with food and ammunition previous to this economic assist from Miami in spite of the blockade. One wonders whether that cache of weapons found submerged on the Cuban coast was as old as the United States Government claims. And that 174-foot boat that sailed out of Fort Lauderdale last fall—perhaps it did transport commandos. Perhaps there have been other boats that weren't caught. Perhaps other weapons have been hidden that have not been found. Perhaps the United States is an imperialistic aggressor!"

Hogwash! There's no point in our unfriendly observer making such a fuss over a couple of raids. After all the first had no military significance. It nearly destroyed a mill and 70,000 sacks of sugar which peasants had recently harvested; and though there was "tenacious fighting," only a woman and child were wounded. Who's to believe Castro anyway? This picayune incident hardly compares with Premier Khrushchev's helping Nasser celebrate the completion of the first stage of the Aswan High Dam or with his talks at Ras Banas with Nasser. Algeria's Ahmed Ben Bella, and Iraq's Abdel Salem Aref about more useful projects. With so little information and so many lies to sift through and with so many other things happening in the world, our unfriendly observer should point his dirty Red pen elsewhere.

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